

New York World.

Give \$1,000,000,000
to France.

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GIVE \$1,000,000,000 TO
FRANCE

*A Debt of
Duty and Gratitude*

EDITORIALS FROM THE NEW YORK WORLD
1917

The  World

New York World

THE New York World has appealed to the American people, acting through their Congress, to give \$1,000,000,000 to France, not only in payment of a debt of duty and gratitude, but as a Military Measure of the highest effectiveness.

Some of the reasons for the policy thus urged upon the country are set forth in the following series of editorials reprinted from The World and submitted for your patriotic consideration.

The World,
New York,
April, 1917.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1917

GIVE \$1,000,000,000 TO FRANCE!

What would George Washington say if he could read the terms of the new French loan that has been negotiated in Wall Street? What would Thomas Jefferson say? What would Benjamin Franklin say?

In order to obtain \$99,000,000, France, in the hour of her extremity, is compelled to pay more than 6 per cent. interest and to deposit \$120,000,000 in stocks and bonds as collateral. In addition, the holders of the notes have the option of collecting their debt in francs at the rate of 5.75 francs to the dollar, "this being about 10 per cent. below mint parity," according to the advertisements of the bankers, and that much additional load upon the French people.

In the darkest days of the American Revolution, when the colonies had neither security nor credit, France loaned money to the United States at 5 per cent., and then cancelled the interest for the whole period of the war as "a new proof of affection and friendship." Yet we are imposing pawnbroker's terms upon the French and squeezing the last possible penny from a sister republic that must have money or perish.

When Congress convenes and formally recognizes the existence of a state of war between the United States and Germany, the first military measure of this Government should be to make provision for the financial assistance of France. This is imperative. We owe it not only to the cause for which we shall be fighting but to all the traditions of the Nation.

The United States ought to give France \$1,000,000,000 without a day's unnecessary delay—not as a loan but as a gift—as "a new proof of affection and friendship." We can well afford to do it, and it would be the most effective war measure that could be

adopted. A gift of \$1,000,000,000 to France would exactly equal the indemnity imposed by Prussia upon the French people in 1871, and the knowledge of such a gift would exert a greater moral influence in Germany than any army we could recruit or any other policy of resistance to German ruthlessness that we could adopt.

We cannot be effective in this war except as we aid the Allies, and the way to aid the Allies is first to put our vast financial and economic resources at their disposal. That would be the hardest blow that we could strike against German autocracy, and the most telling blow.

Giving \$1,000,000,000 to France means giving \$1,000,000,000 in American food, American munitions and American supplies for the French armies that are battling in the trenches to drive out the invader. Having given it, our next duty will be to employ all the power of the navy to keep the sea lanes open and deliver the food, munitions and supplies to the French people, regardless of submarines and frightfulness.

Every schoolboy knows what France meant to the United States when the fate of democracy trembled in the balance. We have no moral right to mean less to France in 1917 than France meant to our forefathers in 1778. We are the richest country in the world. We have everything that the French require, and we cannot give it too quickly or too lavishly. A billion American dollars are worth more to France to-day than a million American troops. The dollars and what they will buy can be mobilized at once. They will carry new heart and courage to the French people and relieve the French Government of the gigantic financial burden under which it is struggling.

Our debt to France is not merely a debt of sentiment. It is a material debt as well. The French Government expended hundreds of millions of dollars in helping the American people win their independence, and while the exact sum is still in doubt, not a cent of it was ever repaid. It should be repaid now, and we should repay it not meanly and grudgingly but generously and proudly and gratefully.

We should regard the gift of \$1,000,000,000 to France not as an obligation but as a privilege. Upon it would rest the benediction of the Fathers.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1917

GIVE \$1,000,000,000 TO FRANCE!

In urging that the United States Government, by act of Congress, should give \$1,000,000,000 to France, The World is well aware that a thousand million dollars is a large sum of money; but it is not a large sum of money as war expenditures go in this struggle of democracy against autocracy.

This country could easily waste \$1,000,000,000 in war without the accomplishment of a single important military result, and that is what it is certain to do unless it devotes its resources to supplying the deficiencies of the Allies.

Men talk glibly about sending an army of 500,000 men or 1,000,000 men or 2,000,000 men to Europe without the faintest realization of the military folly of such an undertaking. If we tried it we should be helping Germany, not the Allies. There are not ships enough available to transport even the minimum force that these enthusiasts name, or to provision such a force after it was landed in France. While we were sending troops we should be starving the French and British, and thereby aiding the work of the German submarines. We should be doing for German Frightfulness what it has not been able to do for itself.

What the United States must do first in this war is to mobilize its economic resources against Germany. Lloyd George once said that the war might be won with the last \$500,000,000. We have it, and many times \$500,000,000. We cannot send an army to France except a comparatively small force of regulars who should be sent there for sentimental reasons; but we can provide the money, the credit, the food and the supplies that are vital to the armies of the Allies, and we can employ the last ounce of our naval power in

keeping the ocean thoroughfares open to the ships that feed and equip the forces in the trenches.

France needs our help, and the help that France needs most of all is financial. No other \$1,000,000,000 which the United States Government could expend as a belligerent would produce such military results as the outright gift of this money to the French people. No other \$1,000,000,000 would go so far toward ending the war and establishing peace in Europe.

The World agrees heartily with those who insist that war against Germany must be offensive on our part, not merely defensive. But an offensive warfare contemplates the employment of our resources to the best possible advantage. An offensive that gets nowhere, that hampers and hinders France and Great Britain, is worse than a waste of men and money. It is a form of treason against ourselves and our cause.

The sinking of the Healdton without warning and within the zone of safety is a further act of war against the United States on the part of Germany. It is no longer worth while to discuss whether we are going to war with Germany, for we are already at war. Nothing remains to complete the record but a declaration on the part of Congress that a state of war exists. Being at war, we must play our part, and our part is to assist the Allies in all the directions in which our aid can be most useful to them for the overthrow of German autocracy.

The way to begin is for Congress to give France \$1,000,000,000, thereby relieving the French people of their financial anxieties, administering to all their necessities and making it easy for the French Government to concentrate its forces against the enemy to the utmost of their power. In connection with that there must be the most aggressive naval campaign that American genius can devise against German submarine warfare, for the sea lanes must be kept open at any cost.

Unless we are prepared to help France in the way that France needs our help, we might as well stay out of the war altogether and

continue the beneficent business of piling up money for Wall Street to loan to the belligerents at pawnbroker rates of interest.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 1917

GIVE \$1,000,000,000 TO FRANCE!

Wall Street bankers are charging the French people practically $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for \$99,000,000. That is what the loan figures at the prescribed rate of interest and exchange.]

Moreover, the French Government, in addition to pledging the faith and credit of France, is compelled to deposit \$120,000,000 in approved securities to obtain this \$99,000,000.

There may be Americans who can read this record without a blush of shame, but if so we are sorry for them.

One Wall Street banker, in discussing The World's suggestion that the United States by act of Congress give \$1,000,000,000 to France, doubts its advisability on the ground that the French do not want "charity." Paying a debt of honor is not an act of charity even when the debt is more than a hundred years old. If we were to repay the money, principal and interest, that France expended in helping the American colonies win their independence, the total amount would far exceed \$1,000,000,000.

But even if we owed nothing to France in a material way, a gift of money to the French people at this time would be the best military investment that we could make. Circumstances necessarily limit our active participation in the war. We are too far from the firing line to put an adequate army in the field. The difficulties of transportation are so great that to divert ships to carry troops would mean approximate starvation for the Allies. If their military operations are to be successful they must, first of all, have American food and American supplies. Anything that interrupts this stream of economic assistance, whether it be German submarines or the transportation of an American army, weakens the French and British and increases their military difficulties.

Whatever may be said in derision of "a dollar war," this is essentially a war of money, for money is the motive power that can win it. The American people have money in plenty, and they must use that money to the wisest advantage. In France and in Great Britain money can best be employed in the raising, equipping and provisioning of troops. In the United States money can best be employed in furnishing the supplies that are required by the troops already called to the colors and in making sure that those supplies reach their destination.

That is why the effective military operations of the United States must be largely financial and naval. We have the money and credit that are vital to the Allied cause, and we can employ all our naval and mercantile marine resources in combating the German submarine campaign and in keeping open the lanes of ocean traffic. Those are the two great tasks of the United States to which all the energies of the Government must be bent.

The Navy has already begun its work, and now the financial power of the country must be mobilized along with the industrial and agricultural power. As a guarantee of our good faith and our helpfulness, the most effective thing that we can do to smash German autocracy and German militarism is to give the French people \$1,000,000,000 outright by an act of Congress and then see that that \$1,000,000,000, in the form of food and munitions and materials reaches the ports of France.

Such a gift on our part would put new spirit into every French soldier. It would bring new courage to the French people. It would take France out of the hands of the loan sharks and money changers and enable the French Government to carry out its military policies without financial obstacles and embarrassments.

To remain the pawnbroker of France is to stain for all time the escutcheon of the Republic. Let us give and give quickly, remembering what France meant to us when the light of liberty was flickering and all but extinguished.

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1917

FOR A GREATER YORKTOWN

In November, 1780, the Continental Congress of the United States, in desperation over what then appeared to be a lost cause, passed a resolution literally begging France for financial assistance. The patriot armies were without supplies and almost without hope. Disaffection was rampant, and even those stoutest of heart experienced in this period "the times that tried men's souls."

Early the next year, when Benjamin Franklin presented the plea of Congress to Count de Vergennes in Paris, one of the greatest of American diplomats found it necessary to use the solemn but humiliating words: "Our present situation makes one of two things essential to us—a peace, or the most vigorous aid of our allies, particularly in the article of money;" plainly a threat of submission.

The Colonies were poor and they had been exhausted by war. Possessing no power of taxation, the Continental Congress had no financial resource except the voluntary contributions of the Colonies, which had almost ceased; the issue of paper money, which had been carried to a point where the currency was worthless, and foreign loans, bottomed upon credit exhausted.

In response to Franklin's appeal, the French Government made the United States a gift outright of 6,000,000 livres, about \$1,200,000, a sum large in those days to both donor and recipient. This was not all. Until that time France had been loaning money to its American ally, first secretly at the rate of 2,000,000 livres a year and afterward openly at the rate of 3,000,000. Appreciating the situation of the colonists very keenly, France now increased the sum to 4,000,000 annually, pledged its own credit in Holland to secure an American loan, and despatched an army and a fleet to Washington's assistance, both of them subject to his orders.

It was this money and credit that fed, clothed and armed the forces which a year before had been in the last extremity of suffering

and despair and enabled them once more to take the field. It was by the co-operation of this French army and fleet that these troops compelled the surrender of Cornwallis and won independence. The principal of the French loans, although not all the interest, was paid in due time; but for the gift of money, and the priceless gifts of men, ships, munitions and credit, there has been no recompense—only empty compliments.

Yorktown is a name forever glorious in the annals of liberty. When Franklin was impressing upon the French Government the urgent need of assistance, he despondently said one day that failure then would postpone American deliverance for a thousand years. That may have been a pardonable exaggeration. Certain it is that without the help of France, if there had been a Yorktown at all, it would not to-day be associated with the triumph of the ideas which we cherish in the Declaration.

When the Continental Congress confessed its poverty and helplessness to France, bitter necessity and the great issues at stake gave it no thought of shame. If its successor, the Congress of the United States, should now present to France \$1,000,000,000 it would be an expression not alone of pride, power and gratitude but of the truest self-interest. By such methods promptly adopted, by the energetic use of our navy in support of them and by a readiness to employ men later on, if needed, we may make sure of another and a greater Yorktown.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1917

“THE HOPES OF A HIGHER HUMANITY”

Commenting on The World's suggestion that the United States Government give \$1,000,000,000 to France as a war measure, Le Temps of Paris remarks: “In the difficult times in which we live, it is consoling to encounter straightforward, disinterested sentiments that reawaken hopes of a higher humanity.”

The hopes of a higher humanity lie in the triumph of democracy

over German autocracy, and The World would be the last to pretend that it is actuated wholly by disinterested sentiments in urging the gift of \$1,000,000,000 to France. All Americans whose roots lie deep in the soil have a keen sense of obligation toward France; yet it is not our sense of obligation to France which has brought us into the war, but our final conviction that there is no peace for anybody in the world, no civilization of law and justice, no safety for democracy and for our own institutions, until this German military monster is overthrown.

We are already at war with Germany, and in a few days Congress will formally declare that a state of war exists. Being at war, it is our duty to ourselves and to our cause to employ our resources to the best possible advantage. The main object of all war is to re-establish peace, and peace can come only when Germany is ready to accept terms that will help atone for the crime against mankind which was committed out of the Prussian lust for world domination.

Solely in its own interests the United States must now exert all its power in the direction that will bring the speediest end to the war, and the power that it has instantly available is money and credit plus the American navy. Nothing else would exert so great and so immediate an effect upon the war as the gift by the United States Government of \$1,000,000,000 to France.

German military critics are busily engaged in explaining to the German people that the entrance of the United States into the war can have no important bearing upon the conflict, because there is no American army and there are no means of transporting such an army even if one existed. But if the United States were to give France \$1,000,000,000, the German people would soon take the measure of their military advisers. They know what \$1,000,000,000 means. It is the exact sum that Germany extorted from the French in 1871 as a war indemnity, and the knowledge that the United States Government was able to present \$1,000,000,000 to France while carrying out its own policies would make an indelible impression upon every German mind. At the same time, it would

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give new strength to every arm of the French service and bring new courage to every French soldier in the trenches.

France cannot carry on the war without American food, American supplies and American munitions, and it is infinitely better for the United States to give these things to the French Government than to sell them—not only for sentimental reasons but for practical military reasons. No other \$1,000,000,000 that we could expend would produce such history-making results.

We cannot engage in a private war with Germany. We must co-operate with the Allies. The more generous and whole-hearted that co-operation is, the sooner the war will be finished, with all that means in the way of saving lives and property.

Taking stock of our own resources and of the needs of the situation, it must be apparent that the first thing to do is to give France \$1,000,000,000, and the next thing to do is to employ all our naval forces in grappling with the submarine menace in order that \$1,000,000,000 worth of American food, equipment and supplies should reach its destination safely in the French ports. To do that is to strike the hardest and swiftest blow that we can deliver, and to do that is indeed to "reawaken the hopes of a higher humanity."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1917

WHAT WE OWE TO FRANCE

In the opinion of the Evening Post, "it is to be regretted that the facts of this Revolutionary debt to France have been so wildly misstated by the proposers of this plan" to give \$1,000,000,000 to France.

As evidence of such misstatement the Evening Post says: "We are told that if these Revolutionary loans of France were to be repaid, principal and interest, 'the total amount would far exceed \$1,000,000,000.'" The World recalls no statement of that kind on the part of anybody, and the Evening Post has evidently confused

the French loans to the United States with the cost of the French military expeditions, which are totally different items.

The French loans were repaid except in so far as interest was cancelled or money was given outright to the United States. The expenses incurred by the French Government itself in assisting the Colonies to win their freedom are quite a different matter, and if these expenses were repaid, principal and interest, the amount would far exceed \$1,000,000,000.

There is much divergence of opinion as to what participation in the American Revolutionary War cost France. In a recent article on the subject, William D. Guthrie stated that "the French archives show a direct expenditure of 1,507,500,000 livres," which would be approximately \$300,000,000. Other estimates have run as high as \$732,000,000; but the weight of opinion is that the French Government spent between \$250,000,000 and \$400,000,000 in helping the American Colonies to win their independence. Even the smallest of these sums, with interest added, would to-day far exceed \$1,000,000,000.

It is not necessary, however, to keep a set of books on our obligations to France, or to employ an expert accountant to calculate the exact balance that is still due on the account. The great thing to remember is that we gained our independence through the aid that France extended to us, and that the French Revolution in turn was a direct product of the political and economic effects of the successful struggle of the American people.

The largest measures of political freedom that the world enjoys is due to the American Revolution and the French Revolution. By helping France generously and wisely, the institution of autocracy can be overthrown and destroyed, and the twentieth century can witness the final triumph of democracy.

Surely that is worth doing and worth all it may cost. The Evening Post fears that it may not be prudent to give \$1,000,000,000 outright to France, because "we do not yet know what other and even more imperative financial requisitions" may be laid upon our wealth and capital. That is like advising an army in battle not to use its

guns because it may possibly at some time in the future have a still greater need for ammunition.

There is nothing that we can do with \$1,000,000,000 which would produce such far-reaching military results against Germany as to give it to France, and if we are afraid even to risk our money in this war we might better keep out of it and hide under the bed until the thing is over.

Money is the one thing that we have for immediate mobilization—money and a navy. Unless we are prepared to throw them both into the balance on the side of the Allies—using our money unreservedly to help France, who needs money sorely, and using our navy to keep the sea lanes open for the transportation of supplies—Germany's contempt for us as an enemy rests upon a sound and substantial basis.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1917

A 100 PER CENT. WAR.

When Congress next week declares that by reason of the murder of American citizens and the destruction of American ships by German submarines a state of war exists between the United States and Germany, The World takes it for granted that all the financial, economic and military resources of this country will at once be thrown into the scale.

It is inconceivable that the President should ask for less, or that Congress should grant less. Mr. Wilson in all his undertakings has been a 100 per cent. President of the United States. Now that he is compelled by Germany's crimes against civilization to carry on war, it is inevitable that it must be a 100 per cent. war. Nobody knows better than he the folly of halting and half-way measures in meeting such a crisis, or how surely inadequate measures would work to prolong the conflict, with all its attendant horrors.

When the United States strikes, it must make war to end the war. Among many Senators and Representatives the crude and

unfortunate opinion is held that this country should "stand alone and fight for its own rights" without co-operating with Great Britain and France. There could be no graver blunder on the part of the American Government. To do that would be to tie the United States hand and foot.

We are bound to co-operate with the Allies. Even to-day we cannot send a merchant ship across the Atlantic without co-operation from the British navy, which helps to safeguard it against German submarines. In actual war our navy could accomplish nothing for the protection of life and property except as it worked with the British navy. As for military activities, we could not send a single soldier to the trenches except as we sent him through France with the consent and assistance of the French Government.

The suggestion of a separate and independent war on our part against Germany is a counsel either of madness or treachery. When we formally enter the war next week we must take it as we find it and employ our resources to the best advantage in order to end it as soon as possible. We must therefore set ourselves to strengthening the Allies where they are weak and helping them where they need help most.

This is not a theatrical or a moving-picture war. The spectacular glory has all been rubbed off. We cannot prance on and off the stage to the applause of the audience, for the audience is fighting to the death in defense of life and country. We must go about our task in a deliberate, systematic manner, doing the thing that ought to be done, supplying the help that must be supplied, and making every dollar and every man count for all that every dollar and every man can count, using each in the most effective way that the situation demands.

It is for this reason that The World has urged that Congress give France \$1,000,000,000, not merely as a return in sentiment or gratitude for all that France once did for us, but also as a practical military measure which would vastly stimulate the fighting capacity of the French and correspondingly diminish the German morale. It is for that reason that we are heartily in favor of lending the credit

of the United States to France, Great Britain and the new Russian democracy, thus giving them assurances that American money will see them through.

These are the resources that we can mobilize at once and make 100 per cent. effective. In addition we can employ all the power of the navy to protect merchant ships carrying supplies to Europe. Our money and our credit are worthless unless the sea lanes are kept open. As for sending an army to Europe, we must be guided by the advice and the wishes of the French and British Governments. To divert steamships to transport troops that are not required and for which no work can be found would be to starve France and aid Germany.

The details of our service in this war will be shaped by events but there ought not to be the ghost of a shadow of doubt that we shall wage war against Germany with every legitimate weapon at our command. We owe it to the lives and liberties of our own people to make the German Government understand from the day Congress takes action that we have not only gone to war but that it is to be a 100 per cent. war.

INDORSED BY LEADING NEWSPAPERS.

The World's suggestion of a billion-dollar gift to France was received with applause all over the United States. Here are a few of the editorial opinions of some of the leading newspapers:

Will Prove Gratitude.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

MOBILE, Ala., March 24.—No better expenditure of war money can be devised than in strengthening the fighting forces of the Allies, we being in the war. Those brave French people are fighting our battle for us, and as a political act it should have admirable effect in proving that gratitude is strong in us and that the friendship shown to us in our day of deep need is not forgotten. Helping them is helping ourselves. A billion dollars magnificently spent, say we.

MOBILE REGISTER.

We Owe France More.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

TROY, N. Y., March 24.—The whole Nation should shout a hearty "Amen!" to The World's suggestion that \$1,000,000,000 be given to France. It would not balance France's gift to the creator of American independence, but it would show that years have not dimmed our memory nor destroyed our appreciation.

DWIGHT MARVIN,
Editor Troy Record.

Would Be a Fair Return.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

ST. LOUIS, March 24.—We approve your timely suggestion of a gift of \$1,000,000,000 to France. It would be a fair return to France in her time of need for her generosity to us in our time of need. It would be an effective blow against our common enemy.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH.

Should Deprive Ourselves.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

DULUTH, Minn., March 24.—The first duty of this country is to uphold the armies of France and Great Britain, now in fact its allies. Our most effective service for months to come will be to furnish financial aid, supplies and munitions. We should deprive ourselves if necessary. To this

end we most heartily indorse the suggestion of a \$1,000,000,000 loan to France by this Government.

DULUTH NEWS-TRIBUNE.

France Gave U. S. Interest.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., March 24.—

It would be a wise and appropriate step to make a loan to France upon terms similar to those which the French generously granted us by the Treaty of 1782. From the date on which the loan was made to the day on which peace should be declared no interest should be charged the French Government. After the war the interest rate should not be greater than that on which the United States is able to borrow on its own credit. The effect of this action would be to give the French the money without charge throughout the war, however long the war might last.

Such action on the part of the United States would be a proper expression of friendship for the French people and of gratitude to them for their aid to us in our war of independence.

RICHARD HOOKER,
Editor Springfield Republican.

Give Credit; Not a Gift.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

SAVANNAH, Ga., March 24.—We think it entirely reasonable to extend almost unlimited credit, without interest, to France, but we cannot approve the giving outright of \$1,000,000,000. We question whether France would accept the offer if it were made. Credit she needs, and credit she should have, but not a gift.

SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS.

Thinks Sum Quite Large.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

BURLINGTON, Ia., March 24.—The

United States can render greater service financially and with food supplies than in any other way. The World's suggestion is excellent, but it should not be necessary to donate so large a sum unless the war is protracted.

J. L. WAITE,
Editor the Burlington Hawkeye.

Our Duty Here First.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

CHICAGO, March 24.—While your plan is highly ideal, we feel that the first duty of Congress is to this Nation, and to defend itself and wage war must come before any effort to aid any foreign power whatsoever. We believe that the energy of the public and the press should be used exclusively to compel Congress to enact the universal service law, to equip the army with modern artillery, which it has none, and to influence the President to appoint competent, trained Cabinet officers to the War and Navy Departments.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

Thinks Billion Small.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

LEXINGTON, Ky., March 24.—We believe that not only, nor chiefly, because of the assistance rendered by France to the United States in its struggle for independence, but because France and her allies are engaged in a battle for the preservation of civilization and freedom, the United States should render immediately whatever aid is needed. A billion as a gift to France would be but a partial payment of the debt we owe for what France has done in preventing a triumph of the imperial madman and world conquest by Prussian militarism.

DESHA BRECKINRIDGE,
Editor Lexington Herald.

Would Do It at Once.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

DES MOINES, Ia., March 25.—Bless The World for the suggestion of the gift to France. We hope Congress may make the bond issue at once. Frenchmen are dying for America; the poorest thing we can do is to feed them.

LAFAYETTE YOUNG,
Editor Des Moines Capital.

Thinks It Premature.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

OMAHA, Neb., March 25.—The proposed gift to France seems premature. If the United States declares war on Germany and joins the Allies our resources necessarily will be at joint disposal, regardless of any possible debt of gratitude to France. The method outlined would be but a dis-

guised declaration of war against Germany. If war to maintain our rights is decided upon, then we should declare our intent and purpose openly.

VICTOR ROSEWATER,
Editor the Bee.

Cannot Dodge Our Duty.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

MADISON, Wis., March 25.—Germany is the enemy of the United States. France is fighting our battles. American bankers who try to hold up France by charging usurious interest on loans are guilty of treason. They should be prevented from doing so by Federal law. Congress should immediately give \$1,000,000,000 to France to continue to fight to free the world from the tyranny of frightfulness. Kaiserism must be crushed, and the United States cannot dodge its duty to humanity in giving its most to bring to a speedy end the insolent arrogance and cruelty of the present rulers of the German Empire.

RICHARD LLOYD-JONES,
Editor Wisconsin State Journal.

An Inspiring Thing.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

ALBANY, N. Y., March 25.—One paragraph of an editorial headed "How Can We Help France?" published by the Argus, says:

"Wouldn't it be an inspiring thing, removing one of the blemishes in our history that we have to be ashamed of, if our Government should do for the new France of to-day what the old France did so generously for us 135 years ago or so, making her a big loan out of our abundance and remitting the interest on it to the same extent, proportionately, as she did?"

THE ARGUS.

Should Gladly Pay It.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 25.—In reply to your despatch inquiring our views in regard to the United States furnishing a loan to France, would say that the State Register favors, without designating the amount of the loan, as liberal a loan to the French Government by the United States as is deemed adequate by President Wilson and Congress to meet the necessities of the French Government in any emergency at present existing. The debt this country owes to the French people should be gladly and gratefully repaid with interest.

HARRY W. CLENDENIN,
Editor Illinois State Register.

More Than Sentiment.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

PHILADELPHIA, March 25.—The Public Ledger publishes an editorial headed "A Billion for France," in which it says:

"The suggestion of The New York World that the United States Government should give one billion dollars to France as its belated expression of gratitude for the priceless service rendered to us by the French in 1778, 'when the fate of democracy hung in the balance,' is not to be dismissed as merely sentimental and emotional. It is a concrete formulation of a thought which is daily gaining form in the mind of the Nation. This is that America's chief contribution to the cause for which the Allies are fighting must of necessity be financial, not military nor even naval."

Will Subscribe \$50,000.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

SPOKANE, Wash., March 25.—The Spokesman-Review will gladly support the proposition for the United States to lend France a billion dollars without interest or security. If United States bonds are issued for this purpose the Spokesman-Review will subscribe for \$50,000 of them. We believe self-preservation demands that our Government act promptly, fully co-operating with the Allies against those nations which are making war on us.

W. H. COWLES, Publisher.

Country Will Indorse Plan.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

RICHMOND, Va., March 25.—The World's suggestion that Congress appropriate one billion dollars as a gift to France will meet with cordial indorsement all over the country. Apart from every consideration of gratitude due to our sister republic, this country could take no action at this time better adapted to help in winning the war for democracy and humanity.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH.

Suggests Loan by Congress.

(By Telegraph to the Editor of The World.)

AUSTIN, Tex., March 25.—When Congress affirms the view of President Wilson that a state of war exists between this country and Germany,

a loan of \$1,000,000,000 to France, without interest, to be expended for munitions and supplies for the French armies will be a sound military step as well as an evidence of American friendship for France.

EDMUND TRAVIS,
Editor the Statesman.

Noble Gift, Says Northcliffe.

LONDON, March 29.—Lord Northcliffe made the following statement to The World this evening:

"The suggestion, which seems to have about it the genius of the late Joseph Pulitzer, that 'the United States make a great and glorious gift to France' is a noble one. Great Britain and the associated British nations are well able to take care of themselves financially, but it should be ever remembered that the most tragic part of this war is taking place on French soil. Many of the great industrial centres of France are occupied, and are being looted by the enemy. Restrictions on shipping are preventing her exporting her silks, wines and other sources of wealth. The project has attracted immense and favorable attention here."

France Is Pleased.

PARIS, March 26.—The World's proposal to "give \$1,000,000,000 to France" is being enthusiastically applauded in the French press. Le Temps, generally considered the leading paper of the republic, says:

"The suggestion of The World, which has obtained so swift a success, shows to what extent the traditions of Franco-American friendship have been perpetuated. But it also shows how the splendor of France has been increased by the war."

In a lengthy article discussing what the United States could do in the war, Le Radical, a leading Liberal organ, argues that Americans could immediately supply munitions and airplanes in great numbers, and adds:

"Already the American people seem to be entering upon this road, for isn't that what the subscription of \$1,000,000,000, so splendidly proposed by The New York World as a gift to the French, signifies?"

Le Gaulois remarks that The World in taking this initiative "lives up to the great reputation it has established in this war in truly magnificent fashion."

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Appreciated in London.

LONDON, March 26.—London newspapers discuss with interest The World's proposal to "give \$1,000,000,000 to France," and the remarkable spread of the idea throughout the United States. The Times says:

"There can be no misunderstanding among ourselves, either of the practical spirit underlying this spontaneous American proposal or of the significance attaching to the enthusiasm expressed for it both in New York and Chicago. Our American

friends may be assured its meaning is well understood and appreciated in London and Paris, whatever may be the actual outcome."

The London Daily Telegraph remarks:

"Until President Wilson has declared the intentions of his Cabinet it is impossible to say if any such splendid scheme will be carried out, but the swift growth of this idea indicates the spirit in which the Americans are assessing the aid which they can give in a few months. The Germans, unless we are much mistaken, will revise their estimate of 'those ridiculous Yankees as fighters.'"





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